

1,500 students of varying disabilities. The co-op employs 97 teachers and 50 paraprofessionals, ensuring that students receive high-quality instruction and have positive learning experiences.

Currently, the demand for qualified teachers, especially in special ed, is increasing at a pace far greater than existing communities can produce. My thanks for Paula's dedication.

This co-op provides students with services that empower students to become active members of society based on their individual strengths and abilities. Last year, I visited the South La Porte County Special Education Cooperative and saw firsthand the great work of this organization.

I am grateful to Paula Nichols and the co-op for working with parents, schools, students, and the community to create an environment that celebrates and embraces individuality and accommodates diverse learning needs. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Paula Nichols for her tireless dedication to students in La Porte County.

PROTECTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND STALKING VICTIMS ACT

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This month is a time for all of us to examine the work that must be done so that every American can live free from the fear of domestic violence.

All of us would do well this month to consider the destructive role that guns can and do play in incidents of domestic violence. From 2001 until 2012, 6,410 women were killed by a gun wielded by an intimate partner. That number is nearly 1,100 more than the total number of American soldiers who were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan over the same time period.

Despite this fact, many domestic abusers can still legally purchase a gun. There is no Federal prohibition to prevent the sale of a gun to someone convicted of a misdemeanor crime in a dating partner relationship or someone convicted of misdemeanor stalking offenses.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Protecting Domestic Violence and Stalking Victims Act, which Congresswoman LOIS CAPPAS has introduced, to close these loopholes immediately.

Let's get to work to end this epidemic and protect the lives of women across our country during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

OXI DAY

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because 75 years ago this week, the

Nazis were sweeping through Europe with frightening ease. This was the backdrop on the early morning of October 28, 1940, when the Axis forces requested a meeting with the Greek Prime Minister, Ioannis Metaxas.

The Axis' agenda for the meeting was a short one. They came with only one simple demand: Greece must unconditionally surrender and allow the Axis forces unfettered use of strategic military sites or the Greek people would face war.

The Axis forces clearly underestimated the resolve of the Greeks. Prime Minister Metaxas shocked the Axis powers by giving his now famous one-word answer: "Oxi."

While others in Europe were choosing to stay out of the conflict in hopes that they would be spared, the Greeks willingly inserted themselves into the fray, costing hundreds of thousands of Greek lives, but saving millions by continually stifling the Axis forces.

Greece's refusal saved countless lives as Greek forces fought heroically; but Greece paid a terrible price as well, losing practically an entire generation of men and women.

As we remember Oxi Day and the bravery of the Greek people, let us also remember the millions of Greeks who perished so that Hitler might be stopped.

TRINITY RIVER MISSION

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Trinity River Mission for their dedicated efforts to ensure that all children can achieve academic success. I recently visited Trinity River Mission and was so moved and impressed by what I saw and learned.

Today, the Trinity River Mission is a volunteer-based community learning center, servicing the educational needs of children, youth, and families in West Dallas. The organization provides a safe environment, nutritional meals, and an after-school program to support youth in grades K through 12 at absolutely no cost to their families.

What I saw that day was hundreds of kids and volunteers like Dolores Sosa Green, Rosie Cisneros, and other volunteers who have come back to the community to work with these kids to show them that they can achieve anything through education.

BREE SANDLIN

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

I would like to share the story of a breast cancer survivor I met last week at home. Her name is Bree Sandlin. She is married to Stephen. They have

two sons, Beck and Elliott. Elliott is a master Lego engineer.

On July 25, 2012, Bree was diagnosed with stage III triple-negative breast cancer. After major surgery and chemotherapy, Bree was cancer free by February 13, 2013.

A proud Texas Aggie, Bree has embraced life after her cancer. She climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, 19,341 feet above sea level. This past Sunday, she ran the Marine Corps Marathon with a time of 5 hours, 39 minutes, and 10 seconds.

We can beat breast cancer. Just ask Bree Sandlin.

LGBT HISTORY MONTH

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, as LGBT History Month draws to a close, I rise today to recognize Chicago LGBT activist Henry Gerber, a man well ahead of his time.

Mr. Gerber founded the Society for Human Rights in 1924. It was the first chartered gay rights organization in the United States. His home in Chicago's north side, my district, served as the society's headquarters, and from there he published the first-known gay interest periodical in the U.S.

Unfortunately, his activism carried risks. Less than a year after he founded the society, police raided his home, arrested him, and confiscated his possessions. He was put on trial three times. Although he was never convicted of a crime, he lost his life savings, his reputation, and his job.

Thankfully, our country has come a long way in the fight for equality, but we can all learn from Henry Gerber's struggle for human rights in the face of overwhelming adversity.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL TIMOTHY REDDY

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Reddy, a resident of Baldwin County, Alabama.

Colonel Reddy graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1976 and was Active-Duty military for 23 years, including a combat tour with the 82nd Airborne Division in Grenada.

Following his military service, Colonel Reddy began a 15-year career teaching math and coaching soccer and swim team at Fairhope High School in my district. He was known for pushing his students to the next level and making them better people. I can personally attest to Colonel Reddy's teaching ability because my children were his students and they considered him one of their all-time favorite teachers. And he was tough.